

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Thursday, April 29, 2010

3:00 P.M.

Courthouse, Room 203-R

Present: David Carr, Chairman
Paul Hinkfuss, Vice Chair
Rebecca Blemberg
Christian Flores
Marcia E. Facey

Excused: Henry Hamilton III

Also present: Robert Andrews, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Veronica W. Robinson, Executive Director

1.0 Roll Call

Roll call was taken. All were present except Mr. Hamilton, who was excused, and there was a quorum.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting of February 18, 2010

An error was noted in item 3.2, where a member of a different board was stated to have seconded a motion. The correct Board Member name should have been Mr. Hinkfuss.

Ms. Blemberg moved, Mr. Hinkfuss seconded, and the Board, by vote (6-0), approved the minutes, as amended, for the meeting of February 18, 2010.

3.0 Report of the Chairman

3.1 Welcome the County Executive's New Appointee

The Board welcomed Attorney Marcia E. Facey to the Board.

3.2 Report on Lobbyists

The Board reviewed the 1st Quarter 2010 Lobbyist Registration Report dated April 1, 2010 from County Clerk Joseph L. Czarnecki. The report was received and placed on file. No action was required.

3.3 Status on Confidential Advisories

Mr. Flores moved, Mr. Hinkfuss seconded and the Board voted (6-0), pursuant to Section 19.85(1) (f), Wis. Stats, to meet in closed session to discuss “Item 3.3- Status Report on Confidential Advisories” and, “3.4 – Letter from Supervisor Lipscomb.” Upon reconvening in open session, Chairman Carr and Attorney Andrews stated they would respond in writing to the inquiries on behalf of the Board.

4.0 Report from the Executive Director

4.1 2009 Annual Report

The Executive Director submitted the 2009 Annual Report to the Ethics Board for their information and referral. The Board approved the document for distribution to the County Board and the County Executive, as required by M.C.G.O. 9.08 (9), and for posting on the Ethics Board website.

4.2 Status Report on the Funding for the EB Training Contract with Phillips Borokowski, S.C.

On February 18, 2010, Attorney Philips was notified electronically to cease all work under the Ethics Board training contract until a funding issue was resolved, after which time the Ethics Board would determine if it would proceed with the contract. The funding for the Ethics training program was transferred to the Ethics Board budget on March 18, 2010.

4.3 Proposed Ethics Board Training Alternatives

After reviewing the products and services under the approved contract, and in consideration of the total three-year timeline for delivery, the Executive Director proposed keeping the Ethics training in house. The current funds dedicated to cover the annual base cost of \$56,996 (with possibility of renewal for two additional years for a total of \$170,000) would be retained and utilized to continue developing various modes of Ethics Board training over the same three-year time frame approved in the contract, such as updates to the Board’s website; focused brochures; video presentations; and face-to-face training. Existing staff is skilled, capable and supportive of the idea and ready to commit to the training and education program. Internal networks and business relationships are in place that the Executive Director believes will allow for the training and education program to continue at an acceptable pace.

The Executive Director researched the matter before making the proposal. There is support for keeping the training in house. The Ethics Board also supported the idea and approved proceeding as proposed.

Ms. Facey moved, Mr. Flores seconded, and the Board voted (6-0) to cancel the contract with Centofanti Phillips and keep the Ethics Board education and training program in house.

4.4 Proposed Changes to Design of Statement of Economic Interest Form

Changes to the format and design of the Statement of Economic Interests form were submitted for the Board's approval. The changes were based on common questions from form users. Several changes were discussed in detail in order to emphasize that they were formatting and design changes to how the form looked, not content changes to what the form contained.

The Executive Director stated that she would be researching the possibility of receiving the Statement of Economic Interests on-line, with the anticipated result of improving the ease of reviewing and housing the forms.

4.5 Review of Rules of Procedure and By-Laws

The Executive Director requested that the Board review its Rules of Procedure and By-Laws to ensure the documents correspond with the most recent version of the ethics code. Ms. Blemberg and Ms. Facey agreed to be on the subcommittee to review the documents.

4.6 Proposed Availability of Draft Minutes Between Meetings

A verbal request was received in the Board's office to consider placing a DRAFT copy of the meeting minutes on the website, since the Board can have significant gaps of time between meetings. The Board discussed the matter and, after considering the input of Corporation Counsel and the Executive Director, determined that DRAFT minutes would be placed on the website after the Board members individually had an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT.

5.0 Adjournment

Mr. Hinkfuss moved, Mr. Flores seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Veronica W. Robinson", is written over a horizontal line.

Veronica W. Robinson, Executive Director